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SUBJECT: BOURASSA PROMISES "GOODIES" TO REGIONAL LIBERAL
PARTY CONGRESS, DOWNPLAYS INDEPENDENCE OPTION

1. SPEAKING IN RIMOUSKI ON SEPT. 12 TO THE FIRST OF 13 REGIONAL PARTI LIBERAL DU QUEBEC CONGRESSES SCHEDULED FOR THE COMING YEAR, PREMIER BOURASSA MADE MANY COMMITMENTS ON LOCAL PROBLEMS WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS PRE-ELECTORAL PROMISES. HE STATED THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION WOULD BE RECEIVING "GOODIES" (BONNES) IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS RANGING FROM NEWS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SILICONE FACTORY TO DETAILS OF A NEW FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL ENTENTE ON DEVELOPMENT OF EASTERN QUEBEC. A MULTITUDE OF REGIONAL PROBLEMS WERE RAISED AND, INVARIABLY, BOURASSA'S ANSWER WAS THAT HE WOULD HAVE MORE NEWS IN A FEW WEEKS.

2. IN HIS CLOSING REMARKS, BOURASSA MENTIONED THE DISARRAY AMONG THE OPPOSITION. HE NOTED THE PQ'S PROBLEM WITH THE LE JOUR CONTROVERSY, THE UN - PNP FIASCO, AND RIDICULED CREDITIS-TE LEADER CAMIL SAMSON. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT ELECTIONS SHOULD BE HELD FOR GOOD REASONS AND NOT JUST TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPOSITION S PROBLEMS. AT THE MOMENT, HE CONCLUDED THERE WERE NO GOODREASONS FOR AN ELECTION. HE LATER
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ADMITTED TO A LE SOLEIL JOURNALIST THAT THERE WERE NO GOOD

REASONS IN 1973 EITHER BUT THAT HE CALLED THAT ELECTION AS THE MOMENT WAS PROPITIOUS.

3. RECENT AMBIGUOUS DECLARATIONS BY PLQ PRESIDENT BEN PAYEUR TO THE EFFECT THAT INDEPENDENCE FOR QUEBEC COULD BE SEIZED BY THE LIBERALS (QUEBEC A-57) HAVE DISTURBED MANY RANK-AND-FILE LIBERALS. THE DELEGATES TO THE REGIONAL MEETING CALLED ON PAYEUR AND BOURASSA TO REAFFIRM THEIR BELIEF IN CANADIAN FEDERALISM. BOURASSA PROMPTLY DID SO ALTHOUGH HE MADE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ECONOMIC FEDERALISM AND CULTURAL FEDERALISM. BUT HE ADDED THAT DISAGREEMENT IN THE CULTURAL AREA SHOULD NOT LEAD TO THE REJECTION OF FEDERALISM. AS HE HAS BEEN DOING FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, PAYEUR NUANCED HIS AUGUST STATEMENTS ON INDEPENDENCE. HE SAID THAT NOTHING IN CURRENT SITUATION - EVEN IF IT IS DIFFICULT - JUSTIFIES ABANDONING FEDERALISM. HE SAID THAT HIS DECLARATION WAS MEANT ONLY TO DESCRIBE A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION IN WHICH QUEBEC WAS ISOLATED BY THE REST OF CANADA AND INDEPENDENCE WAS NECESSARY.

4. IN OTHER ISSUES, THE CONGRESS CALLED FOR SUPPORT FOR LES GENS DE L'AIR, CRITICIZED AIR CANADA FOR APPEALING JUDGE DESCHENES' DECISION REQUIRING THE USE OF FRENCH, AND PETITIONED BOTH GOQ AND GOC TO STOP THE CABLE TV JURISDICTIONAL SQUABBLE WHICH IS DEPRIVING PEOPLE IN RIMOUSKI AREA OF WIDE TELEVISION COVERAGE.

5. COMMENT:H THERE ARE NO DEFINITE INDICATORS THAT BOURASSA HAS YET DECIDED TO HOLD AN ELECTION THIS FALL. HIS ACTIONS AT RIMOUSKI WERE AIMED AT PREPARING THE PARTY FOR A POSSIBLE ELECTION. A FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO GO TO THE POLLS WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE BASED ON THE OUTCOME OF NEXT MONTHS CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS IN TORONTO AND ON THE RESULTS OF AN INTENSIVE PUBLIC OPINION POLL THE LIBERALS WILL HOLD AT THE END OF THIS MONTH. PAYEUR, HAVING LAUNCHED A TRIAL BALLON FOR THE LIBERALS AND REAPED WHAT BENEFIT WAS AVAILABLE, IS NOW TRYING TO DOWNPLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS STATEMENTS ON INDEPENDENCE.
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